



LESSON 5

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Disciples of Jesus learning how to read the Bible and pray will benefit from a study of the attributes of God. What are *attributes*? The attributes of God are those character traits in which God reveals himself to us. Without the revelation of Scripture, the Bible, we all would have no clue what God is like. But God has graciously chosen to reveal Himself through His Word. We will examine ten of God's attributes in this lesson. Keep in mind that many other attributes could be added to this list. Let this lesson be a starting point for you in getting to know God.

I. Sovereign

When looking up the word sovereign in the dictionary one finds the meaning to be, "supreme power or authority." Who is someone in your life that is sovereign over you? Does that person have all power over you, or just the part of your life that is ruled by that person? For example, your boss has authority over you when you are at work, but not in the rest of the things that you do.

God's sovereignty is much greater than that. God's sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation. To be sovereign God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free to do whatever He wills to do.

Examine the following Scripture passage to see what they say about God's sovereignty.

- Matthew 28:18 _____
- Ephesians 1:11 _____
- 1 Timothy 6:15 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does God have sovereignty over creation? _____

2. How does understanding God's sovereignty help you? _____

II. Eternal

In the space provided below, take a few moments to write a few important dates in your life. For example: your birthday, wedding, anniversaries, loss of loved one, etc.



The eternal attribute of God is that He has no start or end. This is to say that God created everything, but no one created God. He has always been and will always be.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about the eternity of God:

- Deuteronomy 33:27 _____
- 1 Timothy 1:17 _____
- Psalm 102:27 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. What does God being eternal mean for creation? _____

2. What does God being eternal mean for you? _____

III. Omniscient (All-Knowing)

As you go through life it would be nice to know all things. Life would be easier for you because you would always know what was going on. Is there someone in your life that seems to know all things? Yet, at times that person does not know the answer. There are many different kinds of specialists who focus in on one area of life. You have everything from medical doctors to financial planners. It takes humans years and years of school and learning to become a specialist in one area.

What does God know? God knows all things perfectly. If we could directly ask God what 438 times 579 was, He could give us the answer right away. There is nothing new in this world that God does not know about.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God's omniscience:

- 1 John 3:20 _____
- Psalm 139:4 _____
- Psalm 94:11 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does your heart respond to the fact that you can go to God who knows all things? _____

2. Explain God's omniscience in your own words _____



IV. Omnipotent (All-Powerful)

Think of someone you know that is very strong. Does that person possess all the power in the world? Can he or she move cars by picking them up with their hands? Superman is faster than a speeding bullet and stronger than steel. There is one thing that is Superman’s weakness: kryptonite. When he is in the presence of kryptonite he loses his strength. That is not the case for God. God has all the power in the universe.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God’s Power:

- Genesis 18:14 _____
- Job 42:2 _____
- Matthew 19:26 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can the omnipotence of God change the way you live your life? _____

2. In what special ways does this attribute affect you? _____

3. What does God’s omnipotence mean for Satan? _____

V. Omnipresent (Everywhere-Present)

Take a moment and think about what it means for God to be always present. What comes to your mind? Let’s clarify the meaning of omnipresent. The word present means: here, close to everything, next to everyone. As you read through this manual, God is here. God’s omnipresence means for us that God is always around us. It also means that God sees everything that we do. This is a sobering thing to think about. We cannot hide anything from God.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God’s omnipresence:

- Jeremiah 23:23-24 _____
- Psalm 139:7-10 _____
- Acts 17:24-27 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are these verses talking about? _____



2. How does this attribute affect your life? _____

3. How is this attribute of God a comfort to you? _____

VI. Immutable (Unchangeable)

God does not change in His existence, in His will, or in His purpose.

Examine the following passages and determine if God is referred to in an “unchangeable” way or in a “changeable” way:

- James 1:17 _____
- Numbers 23:19 _____
- 1 Samuel 15:29 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does the immutability of God affect the world? _____

2. How does the immutability of God affect you? _____

3. How sure are God’s promises in light of His immutability? _____

VII. Holy

The concept of the holiness of God is hard to grasp. Basically, when we say God is holy, we mean that God is great and that He is pure. Please read Isaiah 6 to get a better idea of God’s holiness. What caused the cherubim to say, “Holy, holy, holy?” God is holy in that He is the Author and Producer of all holiness and stands contrary to sin.

Examine the following passages and determine whether the Scripture is discussing God’s holiness, or if it is discussing God as the Producer of holiness.

- Deuteronomy 32:4 _____
- Psalm 92:15 _____
- 1 Peter 1:15 _____
- Leviticus 11:44-45 _____



It is the holiness of God that moves us to approach God with great reverence. It is also His holiness that gives us great confidence and boldness because of Christ's death on the cross where peace has been made between Holy God and sinful man.

Ephesians 3:11-12

"This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him."

Questions for Discussion:

1. Because God is holy and He demands us (who are not holy) to be holy, how are we made holy?

2. Why should we try to be holy if it has nothing to do with our salvation? _____

VIII. Just (Righteous)

Justice is the attribute of God in which He is perfectly just and righteous and in which He demands of men that which is righteous. God's eternal Law must be kept and it is God's justice that demands the keeping of the Law. Since God is God, He is not under the Law, like sinful man, but is Himself the perfect standard of justice. The justice of God is applied to men in two basic ways. The first way is the divine righteousness revealed in the Law. The second way is the divine righteousness revealed in the Gospel, which has been obtained for sinners through Christ's death for sinful man on the cross.

Examine the following Bible passages and determine whether they refer to the divine righteousness revealed in the Law or the Gospel.

- Isaiah 45:18-21 _____
- Genesis 18:20-22 _____
- John 3:16 _____
- 1 Corinthians 1:18 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. Can man keep the Law of God? _____

2. What demands that God's Law must be kept? _____

3. What are the two ways in which the justice of God is applied to men? _____



IX. Loving

Love is the attribute of God that shows us that God, in His goodness, is deeply attached to sinful mankind and anxious to restore men to communion with God. God is the Philanthropist. Simply put, divine love is God's goodness desiring communion with men. Scripture testifies of this love, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

Examine the following passages and record what each verse states regarding God's love.

- Psalm 103:17 _____
- 1 John 4:8,16 _____
- Titus 3:4 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How are God's love and immutability connected? _____

2. How is our love for our neighbor connected to God's love for us? _____

X. Truthful

Truthfulness is the attribute of God where He never stops in speaking the truth or keeping His promises. God's truthfulness makes us fear His wrath and trust in His promises. God's words will never pass away because His truthfulness is unchanging and will never be broken.

Read the following passages to answer the following questions.

- Hebrews 6:18
- Romans 10:11
- Romans 3:4

Questions for Discussion:

1. According to this study on God's truthfulness, what are the two things His truthfulness makes us do?



2. How is God's truthfulness connected to His immutability? Why is that important? _____

Conclusion:

Knowing God's attributes gives us a glimpse into who God is. This is only a glimpse because we do not know all things like He does. Through God's Word, a person begins to get an understanding of who God is and what He does. It is important to see how all the attributes can work together in forming a picture of the one and only true God.

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson # 6

- 1) Read John 15-21, one chapter a day.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *The Holy Spirit: His Work and Gifts* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize 1 Corinthians 2:14-15
- 4) Go to church and take notes during the pastor's message.
- 5) Make a list of the ways you saw the Holy Spirit active this week.